

## ABSTRACT

The present invention pertains to a process for activating a catalyst composition comprising at least one hydrogenation metal component of Group VI and/or Group VIII of the Periodic Table, and an S-containing organic additive, wherein the catalyst is contacted with hydrogen at a temperature between room temperature and about 600°C, preferably about 100-450°C, and prior to or during the contacting with hydrogen the catalyst is contacted with an organic liquid. Preferably, the contacting with the organic liquid is carried out prior to the contacting with hydrogen. The organic liquid may be a hydrocarbon with a boiling range of 150-500°C, preferably white oil, gasoline, diesel, or gas oil or mineral lube oil. It was found that the application of an organic liquid prior to or during the hydrogen treatment results in catalysts with an increased activity. The invention also comprises catalyst made by the above process and the use of such catalyst in hydrotreating.